

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 01596 241500Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
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UNCLAS NDJAMENA 1596
RE.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP CD ETEL
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION SATELLIH GROUND RELAY STATIO

1. INFOTCHAD REPORTED 15 APRIL 1978 THAT A FRENCH FINANCED COMMUNICATION SATELLITE GROUND RELAY STATION LOCATED IN NDJAMENA WILL OPEN IN MAY 1978. NON-OPERATOR ASSISTED DIALIMO TO FRANCE WILL COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER. THE EQUIPMENT CONNECTS NDJAMENA WITH FRANCE AND WILL NOT PROVIDE INTR-CHAD OR INTRA-AFRICA COMMUNICATION LINKS. THOMSON-CSF BUILT THE 35 TON PARABOLA DISC AND ELECTRONIC HARDWARE. THE SYSTEM HAS THE CAPACITY FOR 24 SIMULTANEOUS CONVERSATIONS BUT ONLY 15 WILL BE CONNECTED WHEN THE SATELLITE SYSTEM GOES INTO OPERATION. THE FORMER RADIO OPERATED SYSTEM HAD TWO DIRECT LINES EACH WAY TO AND FROM PARIS. ACCORDING VZC MR. HOUDART, DIRECTOR OF THOMSON-CSF FOR FRENCH AFRICA, THE SYSTEM COULD BE USED TO CONNECT NDJAMENA WITH OTHER LARGE AFRICAN CITIES, BUT PRESENT DEMAND DOES NOT AS YET JUSTIFY COST.

2. THOMSON-CSF SOLD THE EQUIPMENT TO THE CHAD TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAM ORGANIZATION (TIT) OUTRIGHT AND WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SERVICING. ACCORDING TO MR. AGUIER, MANAGER OF TIT, FRENCH AND CHADIAN ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO MAINTAIN AND REPAIR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. INFOTCHAD REPORTED THAT ALL

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ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, ARE DUPLICATED AND THE PREVIOUS RADIO SYSTEM IS MAINTAINED AS A BACKUP UNIT TO LIMIT DOWN TIME DUE TO COMPONENT FAILURES. IN ORDER TO COPE WITH NDJAMENA'S FREQUENT POWER FAILURES THE GROUND RELAY STATION WILL HAVE BOTH DIESEL POWERED ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND A BATTERY POWER UNIT.

3. THIS SYSTEM DOES NOTHING TO SOLVE THE OBVIOUS
PROBLEM OF INTR-AFRICA COMMUNICATIONS. IT WILL STILL
BE NECESSARY TO ROUTE A CALL THROUGH PARIS TO CONTACT A
NEIGHBORING AFRICAN COUNTRY. ONE CAN EXPECT, ESPECIALLY
AFTER DIRECT DIALING BECOMES AVAILABLE, A VAST IMPROVEMENT
OVER THE SPORADIC SERVICE ON NDJAMENA-PARIS CALLS PRESENTLY
AVAILABLE.

4. WILL FORWARD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS
AVAILABLE. DALSIMER

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